

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUXEMB 00040 120706Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03
INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02
CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 H-01 NSC-05 SS-15
STR-04 CEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 ARA-06 /092 W
-----120714Z 014045 /17

R 111640Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5572
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EEC, LU
SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER THORN'S COMMENTS ON A WESTERN ECONOMIC SUMMIT

REF: LUXEMBOURG 0041

1. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FOLLOWING HIS SPEECH TO THE AMERICAN
BUSINESSMEN'S CLUB ON JANUARY 11 (REFTEL), PRIME MINISTER THORN DISCUSS-
ED
A NEW PUERTO RICAN TYPE ECONOMIC SUMMIT. HE BEGAN BY REVIEWING
THE ORIGINS OF THE RECENT SERIES OF SUMMIT MEETINGS AND RECOUNTED IN
SOME DETAIL HIS ROLE PRIOR TO THE PUERTO RICAN SUMMIT IN TRYING TO
FIND A WAY OF INCLUDING EEC REPRESENTATIVES. HE SQUARELY LAID THE BLAME

ON HIS EEC PARTNERS FOR THE FACT THAT HE DID NOT ATTEND THE PUERTO
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PAGE 02 LUXEMB 00040 120706Z

RICAN SUMMIT IN HIS CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT OF THE EEC. HE SAID HE WAS
TOLD THE BIG COUNTRIES OBJECTED TO EEC REPRESENTATION, ARGUING THAT THE

UNITED STATES WAS OPPOSED. WHEN THIS BROKE DOWN AND IT BECAME CLEAR
THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD NO OBJECTION TO AN EEC PRESENCE AT PUERTO
RICO, THE SMALLER STATES OBJECTED THAT THORN AND ORTOLI
WOULD NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT THEIR INTERESTS. FINALLY, THORN

CONTINUED, IN THE HARRIED, LAST-MINUTE NEGOTIATIONS JUST PRIOR TO PUERTO RICO THE DANES IN EFFECT VETOED THE THORN-ORTOLI FORMULA FOR PARTICIPATION.

2. THORN EMPHASIZED THAT PERSONALLY AND SPEAKING FOR LUXEMBOURG HE HAS NO OBJECTION TO THE MAJOR INDUSTRIALIZED DEMOCRACIES MEETING AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS TO DEAL WITH URGENT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. OBVIOUSLY, HE ADDED, IF SOMETHING POSITIVE COULD COME FROM SUCH MEETINGS FOR THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED THERE COULD ONLY BE POSITIVE REPERCUSSIONS FOR SMALLER COUNTRIES SUCH AS LUXEMBOURG. NONETHELESS, IT IS UNHEALTHY FOR THE EEC IF CERTAIN "PRIVILEGED" COMMUNITY MEMBERS PARTICIPATE WHILE SOME REMAIN ON THE SIDELINES. HE SAID WITH GREAT BRITAIN SERVING AS PRESIDENT OF THE EEC, HE HOPES SOME FORMULA CAN BE FOUND TO INSURE THAT COMMUNITY VIEWS ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

3. THORN DELIVERED HIS RESPONSE IN A SLIGHTLY IRONIC VEIN, BUT AT THE END SAID QUITE SERIOUSLY THAT HE BELIEVES A MEETING OF THE INDUSTRIAL POWERS INCLUDING THE EEC IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO DEAL WITH CURRENT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. HE LEFT THE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT HE EXPECTS A SUMMIT MEETING TO OCCUR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM THIS COMING MAY OR JUNE AND THAT EEC REPRESENTATION WILL BE A SUBJECT OF SERIOUS DISCUSSION IN COMING EEC MEETINGS. GINN

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